

SENATE RESOLUTION 12
By Ford J

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elnora Bland Farwell of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the death of Elnora Bland Farwell; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Farwell was an exemplary spiritual woman who strove with loving
dedication to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Farwell was a lifetime citizen of Tennessee and attended Memphis
City schools; and

WHEREAS, she was a distinguished student at LeMoyne Owen College and throughout
her life seized every opportunity to expand her understanding and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, to meet the educational needs of her community Elnora Farwell started a
one-room kindergarten school in her living room; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Farwell later became the director of the Parkway Gardens
Presbyterian Church Nursery and Kindergarten, where she inspired hundreds of children; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Farwell was an active and devout Christian, having attended St. Paul
Missionary Baptist Church and later the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, she faithfully served her fellow parishioners in the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church as a Sunday School teacher, pianist, Vacation Bible School Director, Spring Tea Chair, G.B. Smith Circle member, and in any other capacity that she was needed; and

WHEREAS, Elnora B. Farwell was also a dedicated and conscientious community leader who gave unselfishly of her time and resources to improve the North Memphis community, particularly Smokey City; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Farwell especially worked to improve the lives of children and senior citizens; she was a lifetime member of the NAACP and served diligently in numerous organizations, including the Minority Applicants' Pool System, Free the Children, the Delta Area Agency on Aging, the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, Leadership for an Independent Future for the Elderly, Senior Services, and Senior Leaders North; and

WHEREAS, she was instrumental in establishing and operating the United States Department of Agriculture Food Commodities Food Program in the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Bland Farwell was also deeply devoted to her family and considered them to be a great blessing in her life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Farwell enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Ed Farwell, who preceded her in death; for the nearly fifty years they were married, Ed and Elnora Farwell remained devoted, loving, and always cared for each others needs; and

WHEREAS, she will be greatly missed by her loving daughter, Joyce Friend Johnson; grandson, Jesse Vincent Johnson; granddaughter, Jennifer Elaine Johnson; sister, Peggy W. Hawkins; aunt, Ethel Young; ten nephews, Robert L. Yarbrough, Thomas Hawkins, Jr., Albert McDonald, Ed Milton Johnson, Ozzie Farwell, Richard Farwell, Dwight Farwell, Lawrence Farwell, Frank Farwell and Robert Brown; three sisters-in-law, Leona Farwell, Theresa Moore and Ruth Brown; a niece, Charles Etta Patrick; and many great nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who loved her deeply; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Farwell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and faith and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Elnora Bland Farwell, reflecting fondly on her impeccable character, her commitment to her family and community, and celebrate the beauty and the joy that was her life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Elnora Bland Farwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.